

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,681

Examiner

Christopher Verdier

Applicant(s)

DIAKUNCHAK, IHOR S.

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendment dated 12-23-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, 11, 12 and 14-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Dixon, Attorney of Record, on January 3, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In claim 7, line 3, "a" has been changed to -- the --.

In claim 8, line 1, "sealing system" has been changed to -- turbine engine --.

In claim 9, line 1, "sealing system" has been changed to -- turbine engine --.

In claim 11, line 1, -- the -- has been inserted after "wherein".

Claim 13 is canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

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-- 2. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 5, further comprising at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud toward the ~~turbine blade assembly~~ at least one shrouded turbine blade --.

-- 3. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 2, wherein at least one protrusion extends circumferentially about an axis of rotation of the ~~turbine blade assembly~~ at least one shrouded turbine blade --.

-- 4. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 2, wherein the at least one seal land comprises at least a first seal land and a second seal land, wherein the first seal land is positioned on the at least one shrouded turbine blade upstream of the at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud, and the second seal land is positioned on the at least one shrouded turbine blade downstream of the at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud. --

-- 5. (Currently Amended) A turbine engine having a sealing system for reducing a gap between a tip of a shrouded turbine blade and a stationary shroud of a the turbine engine, comprising:

at least one shrouded turbine blade;

at least one seal land coupled to at least one shrouded turbine blade, the at least one seal land extending from a tip of the at least one shrouded turbine blade toward the stationary shroud of the turbine engine and having a curved configuration;

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wherein the at least one seal land is adapted to straighten from a curved resting position to an operating position where a tip of the at least one seal land is closer to the stationary shroud of the turbine engine than when the turbine engine is in a resting position;
and

wherein the at least one seal land is attached to the at least one shrouded turbine blade by sliding the at least one seal land into a slot in the tip of the at least one shrouded turbine blade. --

-- 6. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 5, wherein the at least one seal land is brazed to the tip of the at least one shrouded turbine blade. --

-- 12. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 18, wherein the at least one seal land comprises at least a first seal land and a second seal land, wherein the first seal land is positioned on the at least one shrouded turbine blade upstream of the at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud, and the second seal land is positioned on the at least one shrouded turbine blade downstream of the at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud. --

-- 14. (Currently Amended) The turbine engine of claim 7, wherein the at least one seal land is brazed to the tip of the at least one shrouded turbine blade. --

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-- 18. (Currently Amended) The ~~sealing-system~~ turbine engine of claim 7, further comprising at least one protrusion extending from the stationary shroud toward the at least one shrouded turbine blade. --


Claim 13 has been cancelled because it is a duplicate of claim 15. The other above changes to the claims have been made to improve the clarity and precision of the claims. It is noted that during the interview conducted on January 3, 2005, the examiner indicated that form PTO-1449 was not located in the electronic file of this application, and that the examiner would attach a form PTO-892 citing the reference cited by Applicant on form PTO-1449.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Verdier whose telephone number is (571) 272-4824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward K. Look can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C.V.
January 3, 2005


Christopher Verdier
Primary Examiner
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